

EDITORIALS

THE NEW MAGAZINE.

Since its organization, six years ago, the American Breeders Association has had as its printed exponent the annual reports of its proceedings. These have been received with only commendation, and as annual reports go, have served their purpose well. They have fully demonstrated the fact that there is constantly rising a body of valuable and interesting new knowledge relating to heredity and breeding. The Association has fully demonstrated that there is a common bond of interest between the scientists and breeders, and between plant breeders and animal breeders, which should and does hold them together for a common purpose. Since the Association includes annual, life, and honorary members, also active workers and committeemen, all being in many countries, and has most cordial relations with other associations with which it has much in common, this Magazine will have wide interests.

The purpose of the American Breeders Magazine will be to forward the interests of the American Breeders Association. It will have no capital stock on which to pay profits and will pay only such salaries to employees as are necessary to secure the services of competent editorial and business management, and will have only such expenditures as are necessary to pay for publishing the Magazine. The Association is strictly a co-operative public service organization, which is served by its general officers without pay, and which does not attempt to earn profits. It exists that its members may better serve the common good.

The American Breeders Magazine is not a competitor of periodicals devoted to scientific or practical agricultural, horticultural, or live-stock interests. Its leading specialties are the increase of the knowledge of heredity, creative breeding, and the commercial multiplication of the most useful improved varieties and breeds.

It will secure much of its information, inspiration, and practical points of view from contemporary publications, and in turn will try to make more rapidly available to them the advances along the lines of breeding. It seeks and bespeaks cordial relations with all periodicals interested in all phases of its work. The American Breeders Association will appreciate courtesies from other publications and especially such as are designed to help enlarge the membership of the Association.

The American Breeders Association has assumed the important function of bringing the practical breeders into closer touch with the scientists, and the scientists into a clearer knowledge of the practical problems of the plant and animal breeders. Its meetings have proven the value of an open forum where practical and scientific men interested in breeding can discuss heredity and breeding in all their relations to the living forms as found in nature and in reference to the production of races of plants, animals, and men with better heredity. The Association assumes the publication of the American Breeder Magazine because it feels that there is need of an independent open court for public expression published by a co-operative organization. The Council, under the authority of the Association, in deciding to extend this forum in the form of a magazine realizes both the difficulties and the possibilities of such a step. The effort will be to sustain a high standard of scientific excellence, and at the same time produce a readable magazine. The Association has not been organized to forward the interests of any group of men, but will give a fair and open hearing to all. It aims to achieve scientific and economic results of the highest order and of the widest scope.

The readers of this Magazine may hope to here learn many of the interesting scientific and practical achievements made by the scientists and breeders who are to fill its columns with things useful and things new. This journal will occupy the humble position of a means of intercommunication for the members of the American Breeders Association. It will also be a force in bringing about co-operation and organization of effort. It will find useful work in promoting worthy scientific projects, and projects for the creation of new varieties and breeds. It desires to be not controversial but

informational and inspirational. Those who have new facts or need of facts, or need of new forms of plant or animal life, are invited to come into this co-operative group of workers. Those who are preparing to work as technicians in research or teaching and those who are beginners in creative breeding and in the production of pedigreed plants, seeds, and purebred animals are urged to become members.

It may be assumed that history will repeat itself, and that the science of breeding will continue to bring surprises. This is a fortunate time for the American Breeders Magazine to come into existence. The new achievements in the study of heredity and creative breeding have whetted the public appetite for the rest of the story. Departments of agriculture, State experiment stations, university laboratories, and other institutions which conduct research are constantly increasing the number of workers and enlarging their equipment in this line of effort. The output of newly developed facts is growing yearly in this and in other countries. A most interesting group of scientists is forming—students who make a special study of heredity and breeding. Breeders who endeavor to conduct breeding operations according to scientific principles are rapidly increasing in numbers. The new creations, especially from plant breeding, are a rapidly growing quantity and of great interest. The steady improvement which decade by decade has been going forward in our domestic plants and animals is just now receiving a new and most wonderful impulse. Science is taking hold of the forces of heredity as it has hold of the forces of mechanics, and the Twentieth Century bids fair to be the century of breeding.

The officers of the American Breeders Association have reason to believe that out of the hundreds of thousands of breeders and growers of pedigreed animals and improved seeds and plants some tens of thousands will be pleased to become members and to secure the Magazine and the Annual Reports. With the co-operation of even ten thousand members, the American Breeders Magazine can be made a great success. This periodical is not launched without inspiring precedents. The American Forester, published by the American Forestry Association, is supported by more than twelve

thousand members. The National Geographic Magazine, published by the National Geographic Society, is supported by more than sixty thousand members. What numbers may be our goal no one can at present predict.

II.

THE AMERICAN BREEDERS ASSOCIATION.

The American Breeders Association was organized December 29-31, 1903, at a meeting called for that purpose at St. Louis, Mo. That call was issued by an "Organization Committee" from the American Association of Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations.

This Committee was composed of the following named gentlemen: Prof. W. M. Hays, University of Minnesota, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn., Chairman; Director L. H. Bailey, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.; Prof. Thomas F. Hunt, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.; Dr. Herbert J. Webber, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.; and Dean Charles F. Curtiss, State College, Ames, Iowa.

The first annual meeting was held at Champaign, Ill., in January, 1905; the second at Lincoln, Nebraska, in January, 1906; the third at Columbus, Ohio, in January, 1907; the fourth at Washington, D. C., in January, 1908; the fifth at Columbia, Missouri, January, 1909; and the sixth at Omaha, Nebraska, December, 1909.

The five annual reports already issued are permanent evidence of the enthusiastic interest in these meetings, and show the substantial character of the movement centered in this Association. The Association has gradually grown until there are now nearly a thousand annual members and more than one hundred life members. The annual membership fee of one dollar was sufficient to provide for the cost of printing the earlier volumes, and for stationery and postage, but in order to prepare for launching the Magazine the meeting at Columbia, Missouri, authorized the Council to call for a vote of the membership, by means of postal cards, on changing the Constitution so as to make the annual fee two dollars; and this proposition carried by a large majority.

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